

## REMARKS

Applicants request entry of this Amendment prior to examination on the merits. Applicants further request that this continuation application be examined by Examiner Paul L. Kim of Art Unit 2857, who examined the parent case.

Applicants note that in the Office Action of December 19, 2002, for the parent of this patent application, the Examiner rejected claims 31, 32, 36-38, 41 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lynch, U.S. Patent 4,686,696. The Examiner supported the rejection of claim 31 by arguing:

With regard to claim 31, Lynch teaches a transmission line interface having at least one port (col. 2, lines 35-41), a two-way transmission line connected to one of the ports (fig. 1, part 2, R & T), and a device coupled to the transmission line, the device selectively coupling the line together when the device requires power (col. 2, lines 48-51 and col. 7, lines 3-7).

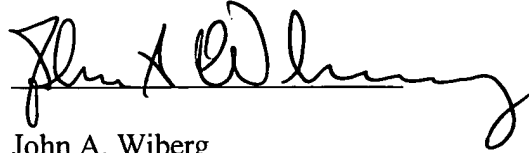
Applicants respectfully submit that Lynch does not teach selectively coupling the line together when the device requires power, as asserted by the Examiner, and as is claimed in claim 31. Instead, disconnect circuitry 20 "operates a switching device 30, for example, a relay or a semiconductor device could be used. Switching device 30 disconnects the customer telephone from the telephone lines, and may connect thereto an output 25 of the disconnect circuit." Thus, switching device 30 serves not to selectively couple the two lines R and T of the telephone line 2 to each other, but rather to selectively disconnect the lines from the customer telephone. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 31, and all claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Lynch.

Applicants request allowance of claims 31-47.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: September 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Wiberg", written over a horizontal line.

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